

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



UNITE
LEBANON
YOUTH
PROJECT



CONTENTS

Welcome Note	1
ULYP's Scope Amid Challenging Contexts	2
SHARE Programme	3
CHANGE Programme	4
BRIDGE Programme	5
Student Emergency Relief Fund Programme	7
High School Programme	8
Stories from our Students	9
Donors & Community	11
ULYP Future Plans	14

WELCOME NOTE

Marking the 15th anniversary of ULYP, I am profoundly thankful to all who have contributed to transforming what once seemed impossible into reality.

Over 1,500 ULYP graduates reside in 48 countries worldwide, with nearly 300 students currently enrolled and over 50 doctors currently practicing.

We are more committed than ever to dedicating the next 15 years to making higher education, a fundamental human right, accessible to those who deserve it.

With the support of our donors, our community, and our partners, our vision is to expand our scope and network to reach more students.

Looking forward to the next 15 years!

Respectfully yours,
Melek El Nimer
Founder

ULYP's SCOPE AMID CHALLENGING CONTEXTS

15 years of ULYP in Lebanon and abroad,
paving the way for prosperous futures

Established in 2010, the Unite Lebanon Youth Project (ULYP) continues on its mission to propel a paradigm shift in Lebanon and the region through creating educational opportunities and giving equal access to quality educational programs to children, youth, and women in and from marginalized communities. Our mission is to empower students and youth with the skills and knowledge they need to become active agents of change and to establish a better future for themselves.

The year 2024 was particularly challenging, with local and regional conflicts rendering a normal way of life nearly impossible. ULYP maintained its support to its students in Lebanon while also launching the Student Emergency Relief Fund programme to support students in Egypt, Turkey, and the region.

The ULYP core team, functioning within different programmes and projects, is made up of young women and men dedicated to ensuring accessible education and opportunity. The team also adapted to the challenging situation by altering working modalities when needed and coordinating potential risks towards ensuring the continuity of the programmes.

Finally, the beloved ULYP campus, given access to by the Nimer Family in memory of the late Rifaat Nimer, remains the heart of our programs — a safe, inclusive space where children, youth, and women can access quality education and learning opportunities. In 2024, ULYP partnered with UPA (United Palestinian Appeal) to fully transition the campus to run entirely on solar energy which represents a vital step toward sustainability. Alongside hosting ULYP beneficiaries, the campus welcomed 3150 guests who rented the space for their activities. The income generated from these rentals supports ULYP's sustainability and maintenance efforts.



Share PROGRAMME

spreading hope and reinforcing education

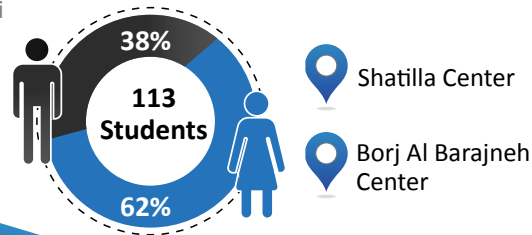
The SHARE Programme is a dynamic initiative focused on empowering vulnerable children by nurturing their creativity, resilience, and intellectual curiosity. It creates a safe and supportive space where children can build confidence, embrace learning, and develop the skills needed to navigate life's challenges.

Throughout 2024, elementary and middle school children faced mounting obstacles that hindered their educational journeys. In response, the programme focused on providing Palestinian elementary and middle-school students living in and around the Shatila and Burj el Barajneh camps with weekly education support sessions, in partnership with Social Support Society. Additionally, children participated in both curricular and co-curricular activities at the ULYP campus every month and went on enriching field trips to expand their perspectives.

SHARE also involves parents in the students' education process through awareness sessions, equipping parents with strategies to foster a positive learning environment at home, thereby reinforcing ULYP's impact.

In addition, the "Happy" component supports children aged 4 to 6 with preschool activities that promote academic and social growth in coordination with preschools in Beirut and Saida camps. The component also includes parents' awareness sessions.

The programme is funded by the Beit Jiddi Foundation, Holland.



CHANGE PROGRAMME

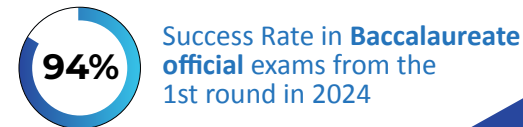
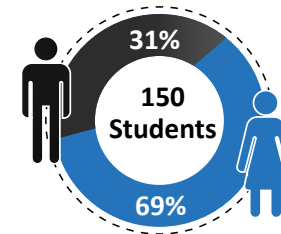
...starts with education

The CHANGE Programme targets vulnerable youth in Lebanon who face barriers to tertiary education. The programme supports both high achievers and those with potential who are underperforming due to factors beyond their control.

Over 14 months, during their final year of secondary education, participants in Saida and Beirut centers are equipped with tools to boost self-confidence and improve academic performance (particularly in English and Math), and receive college counseling.

The programme also focuses on providing financial support to youth who cannot afford higher education, ensuring access to university and upskilling programmes.

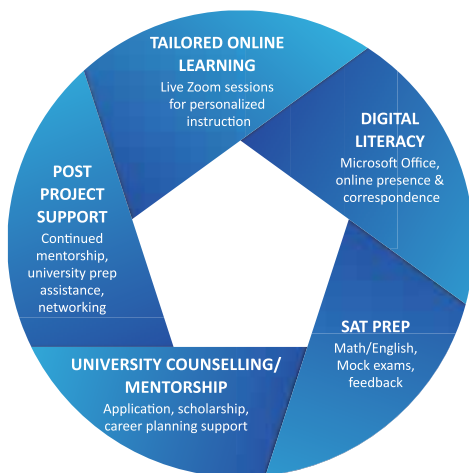
The programme is funded by Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education fund.



University Preparatory Courses UPC Project

ULYP's UPC Project prepares Grade 11 students from marginalized backgrounds, particularly Palestinian refugees, for higher education by providing SAT preparation, digital literacy training, and university application support.

Candidates are selected based on academic potential and severity of financial need. UPC ensures that disadvantaged students gain the skills and resources needed to access and succeed in higher education.



Teaching Diploma Project

The Teaching Diploma project addresses the critical need for qualified teachers in underserved communities, where access to quality education remains a significant challenge. By providing scholarships for teaching diplomas, the initiative empowers aspiring educators, particularly from marginalized backgrounds, to acquire the necessary skills and qualifications. The project mainly targets Syrian and Palestinian refugee youth, along with students from underserved host communities in different areas across Lebanon.



114 students offered scholarships for Teaching Diploma at:

● LAU ● AUB ● BAU ● AUST ● UoB, and more...

The Scholarship Project

Application Submission ➤ Evaluation and Interview ➤ Final Selection
 ➤ University Acceptance ➤ University Counselling and Guidance
 ➤ University Funding and Matching ➤ Continuous Mentorship and support

LOCAL

The Scholarship Project is a cornerstone of ULYP's mission to ensure that deserving students from underprivileged backgrounds have access to higher education. The process is designed to provide comprehensive support for students from the application phase through to post-acceptance, ensuring that financial barriers do not hinder their academic and professional ambitions.



ABROAD

The Scholarship Project Abroad is dedicated to empowering students by providing them with the opportunity to pursue higher education outside Lebanon. Through comprehensive financial aid and structured support, we ensure that scholarship recipients successfully transition into university life and thrive in their academic and personal journeys. The support also involves visa application assistance and travel arrangements, guidance on securing university housing, academic support (including course selection and adaptation to new educational systems), strategies to overcome academic challenges and develop essential soft skills, and ongoing mentorship to foster personal growth.

Over 30 partner universities in:

● Cyprus ● Turkey ● France ● United Kingdom ● Qatar ● United States ● Spain
 ● Italy ● Malta and more...



The Alumni Project

With more than 900 graduates to date, ULYP supports alumni in reaching their full potential by connecting them to valuable career and academic pathways. These include targeted initiatives to enhance employability and guiding them toward fully funded postgraduate opportunities.



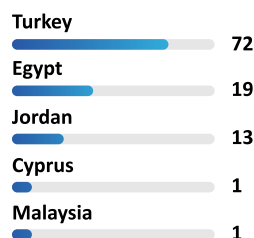
STUDENT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND PROGRAMME

Since the offset of the war in Gaza in October 2023, over 625,000 Palestinian students have had no access to education since all schools cancelled the academic year until a sustained ceasefire can be achieved.

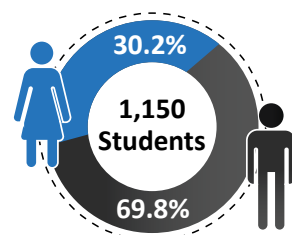
Given that more than 85% of hospitals, health clinics, and schools in Gaza have been destroyed or damaged, and 100% of universities in Gaza have sustained damage, ULYP prioritized building a pipeline of health expertise through medical school and internship scholarships, as well as living stipends. The long-term vision is to support the rebuilding of Gaza's healthcare system, and targeted support will be required to replenish the health workforce through education and training.

The Student Emergency Relief Fund under ULYP is supporting Palestinian students in Egypt, Turkey, North Cyprus, Jordan, and others with either full tuition payments or living costs or both. Through local partnerships with experienced entities, the project took off successfully and continues to grow with the support of our generous donors Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation, Choose Love, Kiblawi Foundation, and other donors.

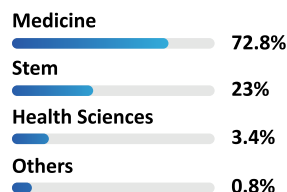
Universities



TOTAL TARGET FOR 2025
1,930 beneficiaries



Fields of study



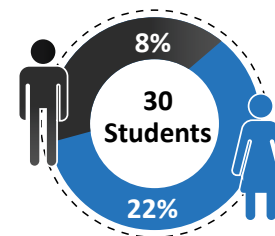
HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Launched in 2023, the High School Programme is now in its second successful year, demonstrating growth and impact.

Designed to bridge the gap between UNRWA schools and private institutions, the programme provides students with access to higher-quality education, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed for university applications and long-term academic success.

The initiative began as a pilot project to support students transitioning from UNRWA schools, where overcrowded classrooms and declining education quality pose significant challenges. Each year, we review a roster of over 2,700 Grade 9 students from the UNRWA Education Programme. Through a rigorous selection process, we identify candidates with academic scores between 73% and 78% students demonstrating potential and commitment but facing barriers to achieving high performance. We intentionally do not prioritize those scoring above 78%, assuming they have access to private tutoring or independent academic support.

After careful screening, eligible students sit for entrance exams at our partner schools. Our scholarships fully cover tuition, uniforms, transportation, books, and exam fees.



Partnership with 6 schools:

- Tripoli Evangelical School (TES)
- Secondary Evangelical School Zahle (SES)
- Al Makassed Islamic school Saidia (MIS)
- OBK Al Makassed School Beirut
- New Horizon School Tyre
- Al Andalus School Barelias

Collaborations

- Canadian-Palestinian Educational Exchange (CEPAL) & Outschool
- English Language Development Sessions
- ULYP Alumni Network mentorship tailored to student needs
- ULYP University Preparatory Course (UPC) Programme
- Pre-university support and guidance

STORIES FROM OUR STUDENTS

Siham Hleihel



“Growing up as a passionate and determined student in an UNRWA school within a Palestinian refugee camp, I never imagined how profoundly my life would change. In 2016, my journey took a transformative turn when I was selected to join the UPC programme offered by ULYP. This programme didn’t just prepare me for university life; it equipped me with the critical skills and mindset needed to excel in higher education. In 2018, after achieving outstanding results in my official baccalaureate exams, I was awarded a scholarship by ULYP to pursue my studies at the Lebanese American University (LAU). This opportunity ignited a newfound sense of confidence and responsibility within me.

Today, I am thrilled to share that I have secured the Chevening Scholarship, with the support of ULYP, and that I will embark on my studies at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the UK’s leading institution in public health. I often reflect on my journey and recognize that without ULYP, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Dr. Ahmad Ajjaq

“Having completed my PhD and proudly earned the title of Dr., I cannot help but extend my heartfelt thanks to the Asfari Foundation, Taawon, and ULYP. You laid the very first stone in my academic journey, providing the financial support and encouragement I needed during my Bachelor’s degree at AUB. Without your guidance, this path might have been very different. Today, as I stand at the summit of my academic achievements, I owe so much to the foundation you helped me build. Thank you for making it all possible.”



Dr. Rita Musleh



“Like many other Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, the journey to achieving my dreams and building a career was filled with countless challenges and limited opportunities. In 2011, I joined ULYP, which became the turning point in my life - I received a scholarship granted by Yeditepe University in Istanbul to ULYP that allowed me to pursue my dream of studying medicine. I graduated with the first rank on the honor list.

Today, I am completing my last rotation in Neurology at the University Hospital of Jena in Germany, preparing for my specialty exam to become a certified neurologist in Germany. This journey would not have been possible without ULYP! To all the young students standing at the beginning of their journeys, I say, never lose hope!”

Dr. Huriya Al Moussa



“I grew up in Nahr El-Bard. My family struggled to make ends meet in a place filled with hardship and uncertainty. Despite the challenges, my parents always emphasized the importance of education. In 2007, we were forced to flee because of the aggression and security situation, and the experience was traumatic but also a turning point in my life.. Instead of succumbing to despair, something within me changed. I was deeply moved by what I saw. That’s when I realized I wanted to become a doctor. I knew that through medicine, I could help people in desperate need, especially women and children, who are often the most vulnerable. After much hard work and dedication, I received a full scholarship to study Biology at the American University of Beirut (AUB) from ULYP. Despite the demanding nature of my studies, I always made time to give back to my community. I volunteered at free clinics, offering medical consultations and care to underserved populations. When I graduated from medical school, I was accepted into the obstetrics and gynecology residency programme at AUBMC. I believed this field would allow me to make the greatest impact on women’s health, especially among vulnerable populations.

Every challenge, hardship, and moment of doubt has only strengthened my resolve. I am proud to be where I am today-not just as a doctor, but as someone who is making a lasting impact on the lives of others. My story is a testament to the power of perseverance, the importance of education, and the unwavering belief that, no matter where you come from, you can achieve your dreams and make a difference.”

ULYP IS VERY THANKFUL TO

- All our funders and partners, listed below, as well as all the anonymous donors for their continuous support
- The ULYP Alumni for giving back
- Our supportive and active board
- The Matar Law Firm for pro-bono legal support
- The Nimer Family for offering to host ULYP on campus and for access to Dar El Nimer
- The many volunteers and interns who supported our work over the years

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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 for Popular Arts
 Americans for Children
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 & Community Development
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 United Nations Children's Fund **(UNICEF)**
 United Nations Relief and Works Agency
(UNRWA)
 United Palestinian Appeal **(UPA)**
 Worldwide Alumni Association
 of the American
 University of Beirut - Dubai Chapter

UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS

Acibadem University

Ahliyah School

Ajman University

American Community School Beirut (**ACS**)

American University of Beirut (**AUB**)

American University of Science
and Technology (**AUST**)

American University of Sharjah (**AUS**)

Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University

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(**CMUQ**)

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Koc University

Lebanese American University (**LAU**)

Manhattanville College

Middle East Technical University (**METU**)

Near East University (**NEU**)

Politecnico di Torino

Rafik Hariri University (**RHU**)

Sabancı University

Saint George University of Beirut (**SGUB**)

Sorbonne University

Texas A&M University (**TAMUQ**)

United World Colleges Lebanese
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Université de Toulouse

Université de Bretagne Occidentale
(**UBO**)

University College London

University of Balamand (**UoB**)

University of Brighton

University of Kyrenia

University of Malta

Wellspring Learning Community

Wilfrid Laurier University

Yeditepe University



ULYP FUTURE PLANS AND HOW TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH OUR WORK

ULYP is planning to upscale its interventions in Lebanon and regionally in 2025, towards reaching more students, paving the way for opportunities within various fields of study, and diversifying the kind of support we provide.

We are also constantly looking into expanding our roster of partner universities around the world, with an emphasis on strategic partnerships that can help us provide our students for more resources at their disposal in terms of academia, mental health, work opportunities, personal growth, and creative expression.

We also are rebranding our identity and voice in order to better match the way our programmes and work has evolved.

Follow our journey!



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